

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2004. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-6, 14 and 16-18.

By the present amendment, claim 15 has been cancelled, without prejudice to the Applicants' right to file a Divisional application directed to the subject matter of this claim.

By virtue of the cancellation of claim 15, the only claims remaining in this application are claims 1-6, 14 and 16-18, all of which have been indicated as allowable. Therefore, allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of


Application No.: 09/800,493

Docket No.: 500.39830X00

this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.39830X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 

Gregory E. Montone
Reg. No. 28,141

GEM/dlt

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666